Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the enumerated specification paragraphs in the manner shown in the following:

[0016] The network system includes central nodes 10 and 12, concentration node (CN) multi-service platforms (MSPs) 16, 16, 18 and 20, business premises equipment (BPE) MSPs 22, 24, 26 and 28, and customer premises equipment (CPE) MSPs 30 and 36. The central nodes 10 and 12 are located at respective ends of a primary ring 32. The CN MSPs 14, 16, 18 and 20 are located on the primary ring 32 between the central nodes 10 and 12. The concentration nodes also form respective outer ends of second rings 33 and 34. The BPE MSPs 22, 24, 26 and 28 are located on the second rings 33 and 34 between the CN MSPs 14, 16, 18 and 20. Each BPE MSP is also connected to a CPE MSPs, where FIG. 2 shows BPE MSP 24 connected to CPE MSP 30 and BPE MSP 22 connected to CPE MSP 36.

[0017] FIG. 2 illustrates a secondary ring of a multi-service network system in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. In FIG. 2, the CN MSP 14 is connected through the secondary ring 33 to the BPE MSPs 22 and 24, which are located in different buildings. Each of the BPE MSPs 22 and 24 connect to a plurality of CPEs through CPE MSPs30 and 36, respectively, preferably through tertiary rings.

[0020] The BPE ~~MISPs~~ MSPs have low-speed interfaces which are STM-1 interfaces. For example, the links which connect the BPE MSPs can be STM-1 links having a base rate of 155.520 Mbit/sec. The BPE MSPs also have high-speed interfaces which are STM-4 optical interfaces.

[0024] Accordingly, the present invention provides a packetization of customer traffic at each CPE MSP. The customer traffic is transmitted from the various customer locations to the CPE MSP ~~can be carried~~ in its original form without requiring any additional equipment at the various customer locations , thereby reducing the cost of access considerably. Thus, customers are providing multiple service needs, such as voice, data,

Internet traffic, and a private line, provided by a single provider. All customer traffic within a local area (such as within a building) is aggregated at a single CPE MSP, such as CPE MSP 30, and services are provided to the local group of customers from this single point of access.